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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 7 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER, 1925 NUMBER 12

DECEMBER MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 10th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

The feature of the evening will be an address by Dr. Joseph Grinnell, Director of Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, on the subject of "Field Identification of Birds which Resemble Each Other." Visitors will be made welcome.

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DECEMBER FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, December 13th, to Golden Gate Park. Party will form at 43d. Ave. entrance on Fulton St. at 9:30 a. m. Take, or transfer to, McAllister car, No. 5, with "Beach" sign.

The usual course will be followed, via Chain Lakes, buffalo paddock, Spreckels Lake, Stadium, Lloyd and Stow Lakes, reaching the Plaza in time for those so inclined to attend the lecture at Academy of Sciences, at 3:00 p. m., by Col. John R. White, Superintendent of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks. Bring lunch.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING: The one hundred-sixth regular meeting of the Association was held on November 12th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Mrs. Kibbe, Acting Secretary; thirteen members and seventeen guests present.

Mrs. Kibbe reported that Superintendent Wilson, of the Berkeley schools, had evinced great interest in the work of the Association and had readily agreed to insert notices of meetings and field trips in the teachers' bulletins, but that Superintendent Hunter, of the Oakland schools, showed no such inclination, unless the proposition originated with the Oakland Teachers Association, and even then he seemed reluctant to co-operate in a movement looking to their attending meetings in San Francisco. Mrs. Kibbe undertook to ascertain the attitude of the Teachers Association.

The matter of reflooding Lower Klamath Lake was discussed at some length. The President stated that the subject was one which required tactful treatment and that nothing should be done until full data and information had been collected, and that this was in process of being done. After thus fortifying ourselves, a plan of action and of co-operation with other agencies can be formulated and presented to the members for their adoption. Messrs. Parry and Lastreto made pertinent suggestions, and the problem was allowed to lie on the table pending the receipt of further advices.

The feature of the evening was then presented by Mrs. Amelia Sanborn Allen, Vice-president of the Cooper Ornithological Club, who recounted her experiences in "Birding along Archaeological Trails", during a sojourn of some eight or nine months in Greece.

Leaving Berkeley in May, 1924, the months of June, July and August were spent in France, the latter part of August in the French Alps; then into Switzerland and the lake district of Northern Italy, finally reaching Venice. From Venice a steamer was taken, skirting the east coast of Italy to Brindisi; thence to Corfu, through the Ionian Islands and around Cape Matapan, landing at the Piraeus, the seaport of Athens, on September 21, 1924. Headquarters were maintained at the American School of Classical Study, where Professor Allen conducted classes in archaeological literature. The dominant note of the Grecian sojourn was therefore archaeology, and birding incidental. The matter of water supply is an acute problem throughout Greece, and a large proportion of the country is a rocky, mountainous barren. There are no navigable rivers. Temples, health resorts and theatres have been located with reference to the water supply. Temples were placed near springs, which still persist, and these areas enclosed and guarded. Trees have been planted there and consequently these centres of archaeological interest are also centres of ornithological activities.

In Athens, the garden of the old palace, four blocks wide by eight long, enclosed and irrigated, afforded habitat for tree-loving birds and was a source of much pleasure. Back and up from the palace arose the Acropolis, crowned with the Parthenon, and here were to be found the rock dwelling birds. Mt. Pentelicus on the northeast, 3,600 feet, was the source of the golden marble used in buildings, and of this the Parthenon was built. The other limestones in the vicinity were all white. Mt. Hymettus rises to an elevation of 3,400 feet on the southeast.

There is no part of Greece south of Thessaly more than 50 miles from the ocean, so deeply indented is the coast with gulfs and bays. The mountains come down the points to the sea, so the portions of the country situable for human colonization are thus isolated from each other, but are as a rule afforded easy access to the sea. Where birds are used for food for centuries without number, as they have been in Greece, they become very wary and birding is more difficult than here at home. Another handicap is furnished by the dogs, making birding by strangers on foot a matter of some hazard, even when their masters were at hand, for it is not customary in Greece to interfere with the sport of one's dog, and all protective measures are left to the "bitee."

The lecturer described trips taken to various sites of ancient ruins; to Olympia, in the western part of the Peloponnesus; to the site of the ancient oracle at Delphi, not far from the northern shore of the Gulf of Corinth; to Mycenae, with its interesting beehive tombs; to Aegina, with its ruins of the temple of Athena, a glorious trip by water, with many water birds seen at a distance, but naturally none about the ruins; to the old harbor of Corinth, where gray herons were seen; across the straits of Euripus to Chalcis, on the island of Euboea, where kestrels, (sparrow hawks), were found, which had come in the spring migrations. Greece being in the line of migration followed by these birds, one finds there at such times the birds not only of the British Isles, but also of Egypt, while many birds encountered by the lecturer in the Alps, during the summer, were later found by her spending the winter in Greece.

Curiously enough, the first bird to greet Mrs. Allen in Athens was the Athena owl, with its explosive whistle, the same owl which appears on so many ancient Grecian coins, the "little owl" of Great Britain. Two singers excited her lively admiration and wonderment; the nightingales appeared in

the National Garden March 27th and sang all day long, being in evidence until September 5th. As persistent and satisfactory a singer was the blackcap, an old world warbler which had the habit of settling in some dense thicket and singing constantly, a sort of non-stop performance. Another very interesting bird was the long-tailed titmouse, met first in the Alps and later at Olympia, in the trees. Its notes are something like those of the bush-tit and its nest is very similar, but with a tail nearly four inches in length, how it manages to get into such a nest is a mystery.

Mrs. Allen made the acquaintance of 103 species of bird in Greece, and she had some comment to make on a large proportion of these. The lecture was illustrated by numerous lantern slides illustrating the habitat and many features of the ruins visited, and excellent drawings of many of the birds. It was greatly enjoyed by all present.

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Lack of space in the November GULL precluded the announcement of the election of Miss Isabel Thomson, of Oakland, to membership in the Association.

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FIELD NOTES

Marsh Hawk. The status of this bird on the University Campus is that of a casual winter visitant. A young bird was found in characteristic flight over the upper portion of Claremont canyon and the ridges on either side, on Sunday, October 25th, working its way leisurely in a southerly direction.

Shore Birds. The location and observation of shore birds in this vicinity has been a matter of considerable uncertainty, this Fall. On the Baumberg trip, a single yellowlegs was encountered, where we generally met fair-sized flocks of both sizes. A few scattered groups of northern phalarope, where last year we found some acres of water swarming with them. Along the Alameda shore and Bay Farm Island, where one might count upon seeing specimens of nearly every ordinary species at appropriate times each season, they have been few and far between. Along the Key Route fill, occasional small flocks of sandpipers, a few curlew, here and there, now and then, single birds of other species have been seen, but day after day one might pass without a sight of even one. Members are requested to advise the GULL as to the time and locations at which any numbers or variety of species have been encountered, this season.

A. S. KIBBE.

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BOOK NOTICE

Birds and Their Attributes. By Glover Morrill Allen, Ph.D. Boston, 1925. Marshall Jones Co. pp. xiii + 338. Colored frontispiece, 34 pages halftones and six illustrations in text. $3.50.

Dr. Allen is Lecturer on Zoology at Harvard University and this book presents in permanent form the matter which went to make up a series of lectures delivered before the New England Bird Banding Association, some two years ago, and so fulfills a promise mentioned in the GULL of June, 1924. The chapter captions are as follows:

I. Some Human Relations With Birds
II. Feathers
III. Birds' Colors and Their Uses
IV. Bills, Feet, Wing and Bones
V. The Food of Birds
VI. Origin and Distribution of Birds
VII. Some Ecological Relations of Birds
VIII. Eggs and Nests of Birds
IX. Some Parasitic Habits of Birds
X. The Senses and Behavior of Birds
XI. Flight and Song
XII. Birds at Rest
XIII. Bird Migration
XIV. Nomenclature and Classification
Bibliography of References

Here is found, in readable, interesting and concise form and authoritative character, the general information which every bird student seeks and which may be found in no other one publication with which the writer is familiar. It might well be termed a text book of elementary ornithology, yet its narrative quality makes it highly entertaining to the ordinary reader. It should be found in the library of everyone who is interested in birds.

A. S. KIBBE.

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, Nov. 15th, to the University Campus. The weather was most propitious, and, while the list was not large, the opportunities for observation were excellent. The party entered the Centre St. gate and worked up to Harmon Gymnasium; thence across old parade ground and up to the president's house and back past Haviland Hall. The gardens were then traversed and the party worked over past the Sather Tower and lunched on the terrace back of Stevens Union. From here the route lay up Strawberry canyon to the furthest ranch house, across the creek and back along the middle trail on the southerly side, and out by Panoramic Way to Bancroft Way.

Birds encountered were: California gull, California quail, Western red-tail and sparrow hawks, red-shafted flicker; Anna hummer, black phoebe, coast and California jays, meadowlark and Brewer blackbird; purple finch, linnet, green-backed goldfinch, Nuttall and golden-crowned sparrows; junco, song and fox sparrows, San Francisco and California towhees; Audubon and Townsend warblers, pipit, Vigors wren and titmouse; bush and wren tits, ruby-crowned kinglet, hermit and varied thrushes. Thirty-one species.

Members in attendance: Mesdemoiselles Ayer, Beaman, Burroughs, Cassiday, Cockefair, Ethel Crum, Pettit and Wilson; Mesdames Hall, Kelly, Kibbe and Myer; Messrs. Cliff, Kibbe and Myer. As guests, Mesdemoiselles Boegle, Schultz, Anita Jockers and Helen Vida; Mrs. Mortenson. With Miss Beaman came Levi Strauss, Arthur Atkins, Klaus Pfeffer, William Dillinger, John Adams and William Marshall. With Mr. Myer, Scouts Richard Giddings, Dickson Reed, Jack Mootz, Felix Juda and Leland Lavinger. Stewart Brownell. Fifteen members and seventeen guests.

A. S. KIBBE.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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Meets second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p.m., in Assembly Hall of San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Strects.

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